

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

ITEM

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DECISION

TOPIC

Chapter 51, Game Management Areas: Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve this Notice to amend Chapter 51, Game Management Areas.

Chapter 51 establishes state-owned lands and water under the jurisdiction of the department of natural resources as game management areas for the purpose of preserving the biological balance and for the protection of public parks, public health, safety and welfare, and to effect sound wildlife management.

These amendments add all of Pool 15 and the portion of Pool 14 below the National Wildlife and Fish Refuge to those pools of the Mississippi River where the use of stationary blinds and waterfowl decoys is allowed. This makes the regulations consistent for waterfowl hunters on the Mississippi river below the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not allow stationary blinds on the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge.

Dr. Dale Garner, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
March 12, 2009

Attachment: Chapter 51, Game Management Areas: Notice of Intended Action

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code subsection 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 51, "Game Management Areas," Iowa Administrative Code.

Chapter 51 establishes state-owned lands and water under the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources as game management areas for the purpose of preserving the biological balance, the protection of public parks, public health, safety and welfare, and to effect sound wildlife management.

These amendments add all of Pool 15 and the portion of Pool 14 below the National Wildlife and Fish Refuge to those pools of the Mississippi River where the use of stationary blinds and waterfowl decoys is allowed.

Any interested person may make written suggestions or comments on the proposed amendment on or before April 29, 2009. Written comments may be directed to the Wildlife Bureau's website at www.iowadnr.com or may be sent to the Wildlife Bureau Chief, Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034; fax

(515)281-6794. Persons who wish to convey their views orally should contact the Wildlife Bureau at (515)281-5034 or at the Wildlife Bureau offices on the fourth floor of the Wallace State Office Building.

Also, there will be public hearings held at 18 locations via the Iowa Communications Network on April 29, 2009. Interested persons should contact the Department at (515)281-5034 for a list of hearing locations or go to the Department's website at www.iowadnr.com. At the hearings, persons may present their views either orally or in writing. At the hearings, persons will be asked to give their names and addresses for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of the amendment.

Any persons who intend to attend the public hearing and have special requirements such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments should contact the Department of Natural Resources and advise of specific needs.

This amendment is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 456A.24(2) "a" and 481A.6.

The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Amend subrule 51.6(1) as follows:

51.6(1) Stationary blinds. The construction and use of stationary blinds on all game management areas, except on Pools 15, 16, 17, and 18 and on Pool 14 downstream of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (River Mile 502) near Princeton, Iowa, of the Mississippi River, are restricted as follows:

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 51.6(3) as follows:

51.6(3) Use of waterfowl decoys. The use of waterfowl decoys on any game management area, except on Pools 15, 16, 17, and 18 and on Pool 14 downstream of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (River Mile 502) near Princeton, Iowa, of the Mississippi River, is restricted as follows:

ITEM 3. Amend subrule 51.6(4) as follows:

51.6(4) Use of stationary blinds and waterfowl decoys on Pools 15, 16, 17, and 18 and on Pool 14 downstream of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (River Mile 502) near Princeton, Iowa, of the Mississippi River. The use of permanent blinds for waterfowl hunting on Pools 15, 16, 17, and 18 and on Pool 14 downstream of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (River Mile 502) near Princeton, Iowa, of the Mississippi River is restricted as follows:

Date

Richard A. Leopold, Director